

Newport Outdoor Group



Putting our best
boots forward
since 1960

Editors

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& Nick Meyrick*

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***Get
The
Outdoor
Habit!***

NEW YEAR LIZARD TRIP

December 2013

By Les Comtesse (GOG) & Kevin Holmes (NOG)

On arriving at the Lizard YHA, with two other members of GOG (Gloucestershire Outdoor Group), (Malgorzata & John) on Saturday 28th December, with the wind howling around us I admit it felt like I had reached the end of the world. This feeling was later reinforced by the ghostly swinging of the nearby lighthouse beam across the hostel grounds. At least we were spared the mournful sound of a foghorn! This presentiment was quickly dispelled by the cheerful, friendly arrival of the NOGGERS, making a company of 10 females and 15 males altogether. After many introductions and a hurried (defrosted) meal it was time to explore the pubs in what is a surprisingly large village. It was quiz and bingo night at the Witchball, a small pleasant inn with atmosphere. NOGs entered a (rather inflated it must be said) team and to our delight won the first prize of a liquid variety.



Sunday dawned bright and breezy. Malgorzata, a visitor to our shores, was quite transfixed by the appearance of crashing, creamy, foamy waves so close to the hostel grounds. Cars were enlisted for a linear coastal path walk of 9 miles from Poldhu Point just beyond Mullion Cove back to the hostel, led by John. This enjoyable trek was punctuated by several coffee stops. Ken also took the opportunity to demonstrate his skills with the tablet, as a small group photographer of attractive women. (This device is next on my shopping list). Returning to base the appearance of Pam's wholesome meal of stew and veg was most welcome. The evening was rounded off by Norman hosting an intriguing game of 'The Nogs Lizard Dinner party'- see Norman for an explanation.

Lizard Youth Hostel is a Cornish former Victorian hotel and is one of the southernmost buildings in England. Its special peninsula location means there are fabulous sea views.



On Monday, in bright sunlight we all travelled to Helford river estuary and exchanged the Lizard gales for the peaceful calm of the sheltered, beautifully wooded river valleys. 16 of us did a circular walk from Helford to Manaccan via St Antony in Meneage including a lengthy visit to a most welcoming Inn in Manaccan. Of note were the cultivated fields of daffodils, with a few flower heads already on view. We also found a decorated woodland fir tree. Only 4 hardy souls opted for an extended walk of 12 miles, starting from Porthallow. I will now let one of them, Kevin, take up the story further:



The "A Team", the fab four led by Ian accompanied by Kath and John Singleton and Kevin, went on a challenging 12 mile circular walk. Starting on the Porthallow beach car park, we followed the coastal path northwards to Nare Point. The route was very challenging due to the slopes of the hills and the never ending mud paths; but the weather although blustery at times was more pleasant than we could have hoped for. We had elevenses overlooking Nare Cove, before going on a slight detour nearly off the cliff (what happens in the "A Team" stays in the "A Team"!).

On reaching Nare Point, we were all welcomed by one of the volunteers from the Observation Post Lookout Station; who was only too willing to show us the facilities and gave us all a very interesting insight into their work. We then continued along the coast until we reached Gillian, where we saw a sign saying you could get a boat across to St Anthony saving a 2 ¾ mile walk; a decision was made by the group that it is only right to use local facilities where possible; unfortunately for us the boat was not running today!

At this point we could see from afar a large group of walkers coming down from the hills above St Anthony; could this be the "B Team"; Ian reassured us that it was. We took our lunch at Gillian Creek, a very quiet spot to eat our sandwiches; until I decided to be charitable to the 7 swans and give them some of my bread; before I knew it they had come on land out of the Creek and were hissing and taking bites out of my arm. No sooner did the swans go back into the Creek, the "B Team" arrived at our location; so greetings were shared between both groups and we then headed off to St Anthony.

At St Anthony we took some time out to visit the local church, before heading towards Helford where we passed the local Sailing Club, and noticed in the car park some familiar cars!! At this point our leader reliably informed us we were about half way into our walk! It was all inland now heading south through numerous fields and farms, and as we were nearing Manaccan; guess who we bumped into "The B Team" who were well refreshed and let us know that the Pub they visited nearby had closed now! Again it gave both groups a chance to exchange pleasantries. We continued walking south east as the light faded; but I was too exhausted to get my torch out; and the final phase of the route was on the road leading us back into Porthallow beach car park. The only question left was had the tide washed the car away? Happily it had not and we all headed to Witchball pub for a WELL earned refreshment. Thank you Ian for leading this walk; and I enjoyed getting to know Kath and John on the route. I slept like a baby that night.

Thanks Kevin. Monday evening saw Martyn, resplendent in his tiger skin fancy dress outfit, presiding over a lengthy quiz. Was he hoping for a roaring success? We shall never know.

Thankfully on Tuesday the Met forecast of heavy rain was incorrect, which allowed normal walking service to be continued. This comprised a short walk to Cadgwith, lead by Ken, with Ian striding out on a longer trek.

I, myself, went on a search of Prehistoric villages on the St Just peninsular, one of which (Carn Euny) was particularly interesting to explore, with its Fogou or underground passage. New Year's Eve was celebrated in yet another Lizard pub, with an excellent meal in our own room before our departure the next day, in driving rain. Our GOG party broke the journey at the Eden Project and sampled the new aerial walkway, 30 metres above the ground.

The entire 4 day event I found to be great fun, due I'm sure in no small part to the efforts of the NOGs committee and helpers. Many thanks. I look forward to another such episode.





NOGS ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION

By Norman Roberts

On Monday evening, January 27th, we held the annual NOG photography competition, with 24 members in attendance, and a record entry of prints and digital photos. Margaret Renshaw just about swept the board in the print categories, collecting 4 (yes FOUR) bottles of wine and 2 free overnights as prizes.

Norman and Jackie weren't too far behind, collecting 3 bars of chocolate and 2 bottles of wine for their entries. Congratulations also to Jason, Stella, and Mike, who were also category winners. Thanks to everybody for making it a successful evening.

We all thought that Mike had taken a fantastic close up shot of a grasshopper perched on a flower in his garden, until he told us that the grasshopper was in fact dead! Also, I was reminded by Jackie when I got home on Monday evening that she in fact took the winning kangaroo photo and not myself, so I have credited her with the prizes and certificate.

The winners for each category are listed below.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Winner</u>
A. Best Print - The Great Outdoors	Autumn Scene - Belle Vue Park	Margaret Renshaw
B. Best Print - The Nogs (and what they get up to)	NOGs clambering over rocks near Seaton	Margaret Renshaw
C. Best Print - Natural History	Swans at Magor Marsh	Margaret Renshaw
D. Best Print - People	Nigel taking photograph with his camera - Prestatyn	Norman Roberts
E. Best Print - What Makes Us Laugh	Dog at car steering wheel - Jersey	Norman Roberts
F. Best Projected - The Great Outdoors	Isle of Wight	Jason Lane
G. Best Projected - The Nogs (and what they get up to)	John Thompson stepping over electric fence - Helford	Norman Roberts
H. Best Projected - Natural History	Dead grasshopper on flower	Mike Alder-Woolf
I. Best Projected - People	Old lady	Stella Goodreid
J. Best Projected - What Makes Us Laugh	Laidback kangaroo - Perth wildlife park	Jackie Roberts
K. Best Print	Swans at Magor Marsh	Margaret Renshaw
L. Best Projected	Laidback kangaroo - Perth wildlife park	Jackie Roberts

All the digital entries (F – J) are reproduced below, and also Margaret's Best print photo (K).



...and finally an update on the NOGs 50th Anniversary Travel Bug

The last report on our beloved travel bug was in **issue 116, March 2011**, in which we discovered that it had travelled a short distance of 319.8 miles after being released into the wild geocaching world from Newport on 1st August 2010. From Middlesex it had been taken to London, then the East Midlands and finally in several locations in Yorkshire, and was then residing near Crowden Youth Hostel.

Well, our travel bug has certainly travelled well since then, having roamed an additional 1293.5 miles, to bring the total now to **1613.3 miles**.

As of February 19th it is resting in a geocache located on the Ballymiscar road that runs north east from the city of Belfast in Ulster, N. Ireland. Apparently, on a clear day from this location, you can see the granite Mourne Mountains.

To get here it has traversed such places as Sheffield, Preston and Manchester, and then zoomed up to Scotland. Here it enjoyed visiting the west coast and islands, as well as making an appearance in the very far north east of the Scottish mainland, before heading off to Ireland. The map to the right gives a visual indication of its journey so far. Who knows where it will go next? Perhaps a journey to foreign lands may be on the cards in the near future! In any event - **go bug, go!**

